

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 /056 R

DRAFTED BY 2/22/74 EXT. 22538

APPROVED BY EA/P:WMAGRUDER

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R 230147Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD FOR POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 036743

E.O. 11652: 11562 N/A

TAGS: OR, DC, US

SUBJ: FEBRUARY 22 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. FANK INTELLIGENCE CHIEF SAYS HIS DEPARTMENT IS INVESTIGATING REPORTS THAT GKR OFFICIALS SOLD ENEMY THREE TRUCKLOADS OF 105-MM SHELLS, WELL AS WIDELY-CIRCULATED STORIES THAT FOOD AND OTHER GOODS ALSO BEING TRADED TO REBELS (WP; UPI, BALTO N-A 2/21). FANK REPORTS ITS TROOPS RETAKE PAGODA SIX MILES SOUTH OF PP (WP).

2. CLARITY (NYT) FROM VIENTIANE QUOTES SOUVANNA RADIO SPEECH, MARKING C-F ANNIVERSARY, THAT "DEFINITIVE PEACE UNCLASSIFIED

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IS AT HAND", AND POLITICAL COUNCIL WOULD BE FORMED BY END OF MONTH. PREMIER ALSO ALLUDED TO NVN AND US ROLES IN INVOLVING LAOS IN WARS, REFERRED TO "POPULOUS AND POWERFUL STATES" INCLINED TOWARD "EXPANSION" AND

"DOMINATION". IN LATER RECEPTION THAT INCLUDED PL LEADERS, SOUVANNA ALTERED PREDICTION SLIGHTLY, SAYING COALITION WOULD COME BY "MARCH 4 OR 5 OR LATER." CLARITY COMMENTS THAT SPECULATIVE LISTS OF COALITION MEMBERS AROUND, MOST INCLUDE SOUPHANOUVONG WHO IS REPORTEDLY PREPARING COME TO VIENTIANE OR LUANG PRABANG.

3. ARVN SPOKESMAN SAYS FORMER PRESIDENTIAL AIDE, ARRESTED AS POSSIBLE AGENT IN 1969, ASKS TO STAY IN GVN AT RELEASE SITE RATHER THAN GO WITH VC (REUTER SAIGON). GVN COMMAND REPORTS HEAVY CLASHES IN DELTA AND ON CENTRAL COAST, WITH 39 COMMUNISTS KIA IN KIEN PHONG AND 30 IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCES (REUTER SAIGON; WP).

4. STUDY SAYS DEFOLIANTS USED IN SVN CAUSED DAMAGE THAT MAY TAKE CENTURY TO HEAL. FINNEY (NYT) IN WASHINGTON QUOTES NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MEMBERS THAT RECENT STUDY, AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS IN 1970, CONCLUDES HERBICIDES CAUSED SERIOUS AND EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO INLAND FORESTS, DESTROYED 36 PERCENT OF FISH-BREEDING MANGROVE FORESTS ALONG SVN COAST. DEFOLIANTS MAY ALSO HAVE CAUSED DEATHS AMONG MONTAGNARD CHILDREN, AS WELL AS PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF TURNING MANY VIETS AGAINST US. FINNEY REVIEWS USE OF THESE CHEMICALS DURING WAR, SAYS DOD SURPRISED AT CRITICAL NATURE OF REPORT THOUGH STUDY INDICATES DAMAGE LESS THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED BY USAID. REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS SOON AND MADE PUBLIC NEXT WEEK.

5. REUTER HK QUOTES NVN NEWS AGENCY THAT DRV MFA ACCUSES US OF JEOPARDIZING SECURITY OF INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES BY MAKING DIEGO GARCIA INTO "NUCLEAR BASE."

CHINA

6. REUTER'S SHARP, IN CANTON, FINDS MASSIVE POSTER CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN CURRENT MASS MOVEMENT TO CRITICIZE UNCLASSIFIED

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LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS, WITH SLOGANS FAR MORE OPENLY DISPLAYED THEN THOSE IN PEKING. SAYS CHANGE IN CANTON ATMOSPHERE AND APPEARANCE, COMPARED WITH TWO MONTHS AGO BEFORE NATIONWIDE CRITICISM CAMPAIGN MOVED INTO TOP GEAR, IS STRIKING. UNLIKE PEKING SITUATION, NO RESTRAINT TO KEEP SLOGANS FROM DIRECT GAZE OF FOREIGNERS; FOREIGNERS IN CANTON EVEN REPORT SIGHTING COPY OF "VERY IMPORTANT" 8-POINT DIRECTIVE ISSUED BY PRC TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES AND AIMS OF CAMPAIGN.

7. NCNA CITES TWO SENIOR FEMALE CHINESE OFFICIALS CALLING LIN PIAO, CONFUCIUS AND MENCIUS PREACHERS OF "MALE CHAUVINISM." THEY CONTEND THAT PHILOSOPHERS

FORMULATED AS ONE OF "FIVE CONSTANT VIRTUES" THEORY
THAT "MEN ARE SUPERIOR TO WOMEN. THE HUSBAND DECIDES
AND THE WIFE OBEYS"; WHILE LIN FOLLOWED THIS RULE

AND TRIEE USING IT AS NOOSE ON NECK OF WORKING PEOPLE,
"PARTICULARLY ON WORKING WOMEN" (REUTER HK).

8. PEOPLE'S DAILY CONDEMNS SOVIET LEADERSHIP FOR
WORSHIPPING CONFUCIUS, CITING PASSAGES FROM SOVIET
PUBLICATIONS THAT SPEAK APPROVINGLY OF CONFUCIUS' TENETS,
AND CHARGING THESE UTTERANCES OF "SOVIET REVISIONISTS...
ARE IDENTICAL WITH THOSE OF THE OLD TSARS, CHINESE
RENEGADES AND TRAITORSWZ KREUTER PEKING).

9. USSR HINTS THAT IT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE PRC'S CLAIM
TO PARACELS AND SPRATLYS. ADVANCE SUMMARY OF NEW TIMES
ARTICLE DESCRIBES RECENT CHINESE ACTIVITIES IN S. CHINA
SEA AS "POLITICAL PROVOCATIONS" (WP).

JAPAN

10. JOC'S CULLISON, IN TOKYO, CITES OFFICIALS OF
PETROLEUM SUBCOMMITTEE OF JAPAN-SOVIET ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
SAYING THEY FEEL GULF OIL IS LOSING INTEREST IN TYUMEN
OIL FIELD PROJECT, BUT THAT JAPAN IS PREPARING TAKE PART
WITHOUT US IF NECESSARY. SAYS THIS JAPANESE VIEW IS
CONSIDERED SURPRISING, MAINLY BECAUSE JAPAN HAS LONG
WANTED US PARTICIPATION AS WAY OF AVERTING HOSTILE
UNCLASSIFIED

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CHINESE REACTION TO PLAN AND PROVIDING INSURANCE THAT
SOVIETS WILL STICK TO EVENTUAL AGREEMENTS. REPORTS
THAT MANY TOKYO OBSERVERS BELIEVE EVEN IF GULF FAILS TO
SEND DELEGATION TO TOKYO MEETING NEXT MONTH, THEY CAN
DEPEND ON JAPANESE KEEPING THEM INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS
IN HOPE US OILMEN WILL LATER CHANGE MINDS.

11. AFP TOKYO REPORTS STATEMENT BY GAIMUSHO OFFICIAL
THURSDAY THAT GOJ OPPOSES NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS IN S.
PACIFIC BY ANY COUNTRY, INCLUDING FRANCE (WP).

INDONESIA

12. STATE SECURITY AGENCY ANNOUNCES GOI HAS FILED
CHARGES OF SUBVERSION AGAINST 42 PERSONS, MOSTLY STUDENTS
OR TEACHERS, ROUNDED UP IN RIOTING DURING TANAKA VISIT
(WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

13. NYT'S BUTTERFIELD IN HK REPORTS FEB. 20 PEOPLE'S
DAILY WARNING, IN STRIKINGLY MODERATE EDITORIAL, THAT

CURRENT MASS CAMPAIGN SHOULD "AVOID GETTING ENTANGLED" IN CERTAIN QUESTIONS. ALTHOUGH QUESTIONS NOT SPECIFIED, ANALYSTS TAKE REFERENCE AS CAUTION AGAINST CONTINUING BITTER PERSONAL FEUDS AND DISPUTES OVER POLICY TOWARD WEST THAT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN RACKING PEKING PARTY LEADERSHIP IN RECENT WEEKS. EDITORIAL, WHICH ANALYSTS VIEW AS CHOU RESPONSE TO STRIDENT SERIES OF ATTACKS BY RADICAL LEFTISTS ON WESTERN CULTURE AND CONTACT WITH WEST, RE AND THAT ATTACKS MUST BE PRECEDED BY LONG PERIODS OF "STUDY TO HEIGHTEN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE CADRES AND MASSES." BY CONTRAST, EARLIER EDITORIAL CALLED FOR "WAR" ON FEUDALISM, CAPITALISM AND REVISIONISM AND SAID, "WE MUST ACT IN THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT OF DARING TO GO AGAINST THE TIDE AND STORM IN OUR ADVANCE." BUTTERFIELD CITES HK DIPLOMAT, WAITING TO SEE HOW, AND WHETHER, CHOU AND HIS ASSOCIATES WOULD RESPOND TO RECENT BARBS SEEMINGLY DIRECTED AGAINST THEM, WHO DESCRIBES NEW EDITORIAL AS "SOPHISTICATED COUNTERSTATEMENT," ADDING: "IT IS THE WISE OLD MAN TAKING THE HIGH ROAD, AND COUNSELING AGAINST UNCLASSIFIED

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WILD ACCUSATIONS."

14. WP'S GREENWAY IN HK SAYS NEW PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL APPEARS VOICE OF MODERATE POLITICAL CENTER ATTEMPTING DEFLECT CRITICISM AND CONTROL MASS CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIN AND CONFUCIUS. SAYS TONE OF EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT ALTHOUGH CAMPAIGN IS STILL UNDER CONTROL OF PARTY LEADERSHIP, THERE IS STILL SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT WITHIN LEADERSHIP OVER FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC QUESTIONS. AMONG LATTER, CITES CHINA-WATCHERS THAT RESOLUTION OF STATE CHAIRMANSHIP, VACANT SINCE LIU SHAO-CHI'S DOWNFALL IN GPCR, STILL AN ISSUE. MAO THOUGHT TO HOLD POSITION THAT POST SHOULD BE ABOLISHED. SUN'S ED WU IN HK STRESSES POINT THAT EDITORIAL (WU SAYS IT WAS PUBLISHED TUESDAY - FEB. 19) SUGGESTS CAMPAIGN WILL REMAIN FREE OF VIOLENCE. SAYS CHINESE AT HOME SELDOM THINK OF PRESENT CAMPAIGN AS MOVEMENT TO UNSEAT THIS OR THAT TOP LEADER, OR SEE IT AS SECOND GPCR; "FIRST ONE WAS NEVER OFFICIALLY TERMINATED."

15. S-N'S BRADSHER (FEB 21) IN HK REPORTS POLITICAL STORM NOW SWEEPING CHINA HAS ALREADY MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR FOREIGNERS TO DO BUSINESS THERE, AND RAISES

OMINOUS SPECTRE OF WIDESPREAD DISRUPTION AND POSSIBLY RENEWED SPY TRIALS. SEES SIMILARITY IN SITUATION NOW UNFOLDING WITH THAT OF GPCR WHEN FOREIGNERS WERE REGARDED WITH SUSPICION, RESULTING IN NUMBER OF FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN AND TECHNICIANS BEING IMPRISONED. LAST OF THESE WERE ONLY RELEASED LAST APRIL. CITES HK DIPLOMAT, WHOSE COUNTRY HAS SIGNED NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTS WITH

PRC, THAT "WE ARE AFRAID ABOUT THE WAY THINGS ARE DEVELOPING, AND WE HOPE IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN" THAT FOREIGN SPECIALISTS GET CAUGHT UP IN INTERNAL POLITICAL STORM. OTHER SOURCES REPORT THERE ALREADY HAVE BEEN SLOW-DOWNS IN COMMERCIAL DEALINGS WITH PRC OFFICIALS; OFFICIALS SEEM DISTRACTED BY POLITICAL MEETINGS AND LESS ABLE TO ATTEND TO BUSINESS. ONE EUROPEAN ENGINEER NOW IN PEKING FINDS IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO GET ANYTHING ACCOMPLISHED THAN ON PREVIOUS VISITS. ANOTHER TECHNICIAN, IN PEKING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, NOTED RECENTLY THAT EAGER COOPERATION UNCLASSIFIED

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HAD SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED AND HAS BEEN REPLACED BY COOLNESS. BRADSHAW ASSERTS THAT ARTICLES CRITICIZING ANTONIONI HAVE HAD EFFECT OF WARNING THAT FOREIGNERS MUST BE CLOSELY WATCHED. SAYS THIS REFLECTS DIRECTLY ON BUSINESSMEN AND TECHNICIANS WHOM CHOU'S GOVERNMENT HAD WANTED IN CHINA.

16. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN HK QUOTES CHINA-WATCHERS THERE THAT ONCE PRESENT CAMPAIGN SUBSIDES, THERE WILL BE NEW BALANCE OF POLITICAL POWER IN CHINA. THEY ARE EQUALLY CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT NEWLY-ESTABLISHED SINO-US RAPPROCHEMENT WILL SURVIVE WHATEVER IS TO COME. ASSERTS THAT WHILE NO DEFINITE CHANGE IN CHINA'S POLICIES, THERE HAS BEEN CHANGE IN COUNTRY'S MOOD - SUDDEN CHILL IN RELATIONS WITH FOREIGNERS HAS SET IN.

17. GLOBE AND MAIL'S JOHN BURNS IN PEKING PROVIDES BALANCE TO IMPRESSION CONVEYED IN NEWSMAGAZINE THAT CONJURES UP IMAGES OF TURMOIL AND VIOLENCE SUCH AS STALKED PRC DURING GPCR. SAYS SOME ASPECTS OF SITUATION SUGGEST HISTORY IS ABOUT TO REPEAT ITSELF; DIPLOMATS, JOURNALISTS, AND OTHER WESTERN RESIDENTS DETECT COOLING IN THEIR SOCIAL CONTACT WITH CHINESE. BUT FOR ALL THIS, EVERYDAY LIFE OF PEOPLE GOES ON MUCH AS BEFORE. IN FACT, ALL SIGNS VISIBLE IN PEKING INDICATE THAT ANALOGY WITH GPCR IS MISLEADING. AT PRACTICAL LEVEL, IT IS DIFFERENCES, NOT SIMILARITIES, THAT IMPRESS MOST OBSERVERS IN CAPITAL. UNLIKE GPCR, WHICH DEVELOPED QUICKLY INTO OUTRIGHT ATTACKS ON HIGH-RANKING PARTY OFFICIALS, CURRENT CAMPAIGN HAS RUN ON FOR MONTHS WITHOUT HOMING IN ON PROMINENT POLITICAL PERSONALITIES. AND WHEREAS GPCR RECEIVED IMPETUS FROM MAO

DIRECTIVE INSTRUCTING RED GUARD BATTALIONS TO BOMBARD PARTY HQS, TODAY IT IS PARTY CONTROL THAT IS STRESSED. FACTORIES, SCHOOLS, AND UNIVERSITIES REMAIN OPEN, ALBEIT WITH RENEWED STRESS ON IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AND DISCIPLINE REMAINS ORDER OF DAY. STUDENTS WITH RED GUARD ARMBANDS CAN BE SEEN IN STREETS - BUT ARE STROLLING, NOT MARCHING, AND THEIR GENERAL DEMEANOR REMINDS OBSERVERS MORE OF SCOUT CORPS THAN REVOLUTIONARY COMMANDO. POSTERS, ALSO, ARE INNOCUOUS COMPARED WITH

BIG-CHARACTER SLOGANS THAT APPEARED DURING GPCR. NONE OF
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THIS PRECLUDES POSSIBILITY OF MORE DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS
AHEAD; BUT FOR TIME BEING, IT IS RELATIVE NORMALITY OF
SITUATION THAT IMPRESSES ITSELF ON OUTSIDERS.

18. JOC'S STRAUSS IN HK SEES POLITICAL CAMPAIGN IN CHINA
ADVERSELY AFFECTING PRC ECONOMY AS DURING GREAT LEAP FOR-
WARD AND GPCR.

19. S-N'S DIXON (FEB. 21) NOTES, AMONG OTHER THINGS,
PRESENCE PRCLO DEPUTY CHIEF HAN HSU AT FEB. 20 PAK
RECEPTION HONORING NEW PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR. HAN SAID
HIS COUNTRY WILL SELL ONE OF TWO HOUSES IT BOUGHT ON "S"
STREET, ADDING, "WE HAVE SO MUCH ROOM AT THE HOTEL
(WINDSOR PARK), AND THE HOUSE IS TOO OLD AND NEEDS TOO
MUCH FIXING." HAN ALSO SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN HIS WIFE
WOULD BE ARRIVING AND THAT HIS CHILDREN WOULD REMAIN IN
CHINA "TO GO TO SCHOOL." HE DISCUSSED CHINESE THEATRE WITH
ROSE ROBINSON OF BETHESDA, WHO STUDIED CHINESE THEATRE
BEFORE SHE OPENED DRESS SHOP.

20. WSJ'S PEARLSTINE IN TOKYO REPORTS JAPANESE, RECENT
LENDERS OVERSEAS, BEGINNING TO INCREASE BORROWING FROM
ABROAD. ATTRIBUTES TURNABOUT TO JAPAN'S CONCERN ABOUT
DECLINING FOREIGN-CURRENCY RESERVES. NOTES THAT WHILE
GOVT. FINANCE OFFICIALS ARE UNITED ON NEED TO END BANK
BORROWINGS AND BOND ISSUANCE BY FOREIGNERS, THEY ARE
UNDECIDED ABOUT HOW MUCH CAPITAL JAPANESE FIRMS SHOULD
BE ALLOWED TO RAISE ABROAD. SOME OFFICIALS EAGER TO
PERMIT HEAVY BORROWING AND PLACEMENT OF MANY BOND ISSUES
TO HELP EASE CURRENCY-RESERVE PROBLEMS. BUT THEY ARE
BEING RESTRAINED BY OTHERS WHO SAY GOJ'S TIGHT-MONEY
POLICIES, DESIGNED TO CURB RUNAWAY INFLATION, WILL BE
DESTROYED IF UNLIMITED FUND RAISING PERMITTED. AS RE-
SULT, COMPROMISE STRUCK: ONLY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THOSE
FIRMS THAT WANT TO RAISE CAPITAL ABROAD ARE BEING PER-
MITTED TO DO SO. AND, AT LEAST FOR NOW, FINMIN IS IN-
SISTING THAT ANY FUNDS RAISED ABROAD MUST BE USED ABROAD.

TOKYO BROKERAGE-HOUSE SOURCES INDICATE THAT MOST OF BOND
ISSUES WILL BE FLOATED IN EUROPE BECAUSE JAPANESE FIRMS
FIND IT DIFFICULT COMPLY WITH SEC DISCLOSURE REGULATIONS.
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21. CSM JAN. 28 EDITORIAL, "VIETNAM - ONE YEAR LATER, "
EVOKES CRITICAL LETTERS TO EDITOR. IN ONE, OFFICERS OF
MASS. BRANCH OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE
AND FREEDOM ACCUSE CSM OF AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR CON-

TINUING WAR BY IGNORING C-F TERMS. SAY PARIS AGREEMENT STATES "UNEQUIVOCALLY" THAT US RECOGNIZES TWO REGIMES IN SVN, THAT US WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THAT NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RECONCILIATION WILL BE FORMED TO ARRANGE ELECTIONS. THEY THEN QUOTE CSM'S SAIGON CORRESPONDENT SOUTHERLAND THAT THIEU "HAS ACTED FROM START" AS IF PEACE AGREEMENT "DID NOT EXIST" AND THAT US "APPEARS TO BE BACKING" THIEU. LETTER KNOCKS SVN INTERNAL CONDITIONS, REFERS TO COUNTRY AS "POLICE STATE" SUPPORTED BY US, BLAMES CAMBODIAN WAR ON "ILLEGAL MILITARY AND POLITICAL" US INTERVENTION, AND RECOMMENDS US ACCEPT INDOCHINA "THOROUGHLY LEGITIMATE NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS." IN OTHER LESS-STRIDENT, DISSENTING LETTER, NUN CALLS EDITORIAL MISLEADING, CITES AFSC RESEARCH REPORT ON SAME TOPIC AS EDITORIAL THAT CRITICIZES THIEU CONTROL METHODS FUNDED BY US, MENTIONS "MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SPORTS SHIRTS" IN SVN, AND ASKS WHAT CAUSE HAS ADVANCED APPRECIABLY IN YEAR SINCE C-F. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, AMMUNITION, SALES, PRESS COMMENTS, FOODS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS, SOCIAL CHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE036743
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: 2/22/74 EXT. 22538
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 11562 N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740268/abbrzcje.tel
Line Count: 345
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEBRUARY 22 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US, VS, VN, CB, CH, FANK
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
BIEN HOA
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COGARD FOR POLAD
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Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005